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DAN SMOOT

IS COMMUNISM DANGEROUS?

In the spring of 1969, a 25-year-old Negro named Angela Davis received a two-year appointment as assistant professor of philosophy at the University of California in Los Angeles. She obtained the job (which pays $9684 a year—taxpayers' money) with the help of Professor Donald Kalish, chairman of the philosophy department at UCLA. Concerning his own philosophy, Kalish has said:

"I am far to the left of the Communist Party."[1]

As a student, Angela Davis studied under marxist professor Herbert Marcuse. She says Marcuse strongly influenced her political thinking.[1] Marcuse, like Kalish, also considers himself left of the Communist Party. Marcuse says:

"The Marxian idea of socialism is not radical enough.... We must develop the moral-sexual rebellion of the youth."[2]

Marcuse has been indoctrinating students (and others) with communist dogma for more than a quarter of a century. Even before he became a naturalized citizen of the United States (1940), Marcuse was a research associate at Columbia University. During and immediately following World War II, he held important posts in the U.S. Office of War Information, in the Office of Strategic Services, and in the State Department's Office of Intelligence Research. Later, he was a professor of politics and philosophy in the Russian Research Center at Harvard. Since 1965, he has been a professor of philosophy at the University of California in San Diego. By 1968, he had become famous, on campuses from San Diego to Paris, as the philosopher of the new left and mentor of rioting anarchists. He was in Paris attending a UNESCO symposium on Karl Marx when communists instigated bloody riots at the Sorbonne.[3]

While studying under Herbert Marcuse at UCSD, Angela Davis was a revolutionary activist. She was a member of the Black Panther Party, and she participated in a demonstration of campus thugs who

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seized the university administration building. [1]

In July, 1969, it came to light that Angela Davis is a communist. She readily admitted that she is a member of the Che-Lumumba Club (an all-Negro cell of the Communist Party of southern California), and that she espouses Marxism. But she denied that she intended to "force her beliefs" on her students.[4]

On September 19, 1969, the Board of Regents of the University of California decided that the hiring of Angela Davis at UCLA violated the Regents' 20-year-old policy against employing communists as faculty members at any of the nine campuses in the University of California system. The Regents wrote her a letter saying she would "possibly be dismissed" because of her communist membership.[4]

Miss Davis announced that she had been fired. She accused the Regents of racism, saying they acted against her because she is a Negro, not because she is a communist. She retained a leftist lawyer (John T. McTernan[1]), and said she would appeal her case to the UCLA Academic Senate, and to the courts if necessary.[4]

Predictably, the Angela Davis case became a *cause celebre* for new-leftists and pampered adolescents (faculty members and students) of the academic world.

At San Francisco, the Academic Council (which is called the "faculty leadership" of the University of California) held an emergency meeting to resolve that it would no longer support the Regents' 20-year-old policy of prohibiting the hiring of Communist Party members. The Academic Council declared that "membership in the Communist Party cannot legitimately be made the basis for disqualification."[4]

The Board of Regents held another meeting on October 3, 1969, and resolved that Miss Davis "shall not be authorized to give instructions in any course under the jurisdiction of the school, department, or other academic agency approved by the Regents." [4]

Charles E. Young, UCLA Chancellor, denounced this Regents' action against Angela Davis as "a violation of the spirit if not the letter of justice and due process."[4] He did not cite any statute, constitutional provision, or legal precedent whose "spirit" requires American taxpayers to pay the enemies of our society for teaching youth how to destroy our society.

Chancellor Young said *he* considers Miss Davis "in every respect a full member of the faculty," despite the Regents' action. Young said *he* interprets the Regents' statement as meaning that Miss Davis can continue to teach at UCLA, and draw her salary, while appealing her case, though students will get no credit for taking her course.[4]

On October 6, classes opened for the fall session at UCLA. Unknown persons firebombed an information booth at a campus entrance, causing property damage estimated at $2250. A group of 20 Negro professors circulated pamphlets supporting Angela Davis, threatening to withhold credits from their own students as long as Miss Davis's students receive no credits.

John Parker, editor of *The Daily Bruin,* UCLA newspaper, said:

"She'd better teach or something's going to happen."[4]

She taught. Her first lecture was attended by an overflow crowd of 1900 students (with 100 turned away for lack of room), although only 169 students were registered for her course.

Described by reporters as "young, shapely, and miniskirted, her hair in African natural style," Miss Davis was, of course, lionized; and she obviously enjoyed it. Before ascending the podium, she made a brief statement for the benefit of the press and of her adoring audience, saying:

"I'd like to lecture. . . . I don't think we ought to allow the Regents to interfere."[4]

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There was no indication that the Regents intended to interfere with the fired communist teacher who was flaunting their authority.

Angela Davis's course at UCLA is called "Recurring Philosophical Themes in Black Literature." Her opening lecture on October 6 dealt largely with Karl Marx (white), Herbert Marcuse (white), and Nat Turner (Negro).[4]

Nat Turner has become a towering hero-figure of Negro militants and their white toadies. He was a slave who tried to create an uprising of slaves in 1831, and was hanged after leading a mob of Negroes in a killing spree which is vividly described in a book called *Great Negroes Past and Present.*[5] With "righteous determination," and using "muskets, axes, and scythes," the book says, Nat Turner and his men "for forty-eight hours . . . roamed the plantations, leaving dead a total of fifty-five whites."

Angela Davis's contention that she was fired because she is a Negro is ludicrous. There are scores of Negro faculty members on the nine campuses under the Regents' supervision. None, besides Angela, has been fired.

It is obvious that Angela Davis was a Negro when she was hired at UCLA, and it is probable that she was hired *because* she is a Negro. In this regard, it is interesting to note that only eight of the 16 faculty members of the UCLA philosophy department voted to hire Miss Davis, even though Donald Kalish, the head of the department, supported her strongly. Five members of the department voted against hiring her; three abstained from voting.[1]

There is intriguing irony in Angela Davis's contention that she was *not* fired because she is a communist. Robert Singleton (director of the UCLA Afro-American Studies Center) supported her contention, saying:

"It can be documented that there are white communists teaching at the university. Racism is the overriding issue in this case."[4]

Yet, Singleton refused to identify any of the white communist faculty members of the University of California, saying "We . . . know what would happen to them" if they were identified. While asserting that white communists are not fired because they are white, Singleton refused to name them for fear they would be fired if identified!

In another statement, Singleton said, "The regents' action has not only jeopardized Angela, but all faculty." University Chancellor Charles Young echoed the same sentiment, saying that feeling was high on the campus, because students and faculty members feared that the ouster of Miss Davis might be a prelude to the firing of other faculty members.[4]

Obviously, Singleton, Young, and other faculty members and students think Angela Davis was fired because she is a communist; and they fear that many others may be fired for the same reason.

The fact that one arrogant, miniskirted, hip-swinging militant (communist or otherwise) could create such turmoil on an American campus, and get such broad support from faculty and student body, is a significant commentary on the condition of "higher education" in the United States.

Of even more significance is the question: How much damage can communist teachers do?

In *School of Darkness*, the late Dr. Bella Dodd (formerly a leading communist official, lawyer, and teacher at Hunter College in New York City) said:

"I . . . began to tear apart before my students many respected public groups . . . that were trying to better conditions. . . . This . . . had a destructive effect on . . . sensitive students. . . . I know I did much damage."

In *Witness,* Whittaker Chambers said:

"Every year the Communist National Students League was graduating its hundreds from the colleges. These were the first quotas of the great drift from Columbia, Harvard and else-

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where. These were the years that floated Alger Hiss into the party and made possible the . . . *infiltrations* of the Government, science, education, and all branches of communications, but especially radio, motion pictures, book, magazine and newspaper publishing. . . . A surprising number came of excellent American families. . . . From 1930 onward, a small intellectual army passed over to the Communist Party. . . . [carrying] the weak and stumbling American Communist Party directly into the highest councils of the nation."

The Angela Davis case brings into focus matters of grave importance.

Since 1946, our government has spent $182.6 billion on foreign aid.[6] This pillaging of taxpayers was necessary to combat communism, we were told.

Our government has spent about $75 billion maintaining U.S. troops in Europe since NATO was created in 1949 — to defend the West against communism, we were told.

Grass had hardly covered the graves of our World War II dead, when thousands of American lives and billions of American dollars were squandered in Korea — ostensibly to stop the spread of communism.

In 1955, the U.S. Senate unanimously ratified the SEATO treaty (which later involved us in the Vietnam disaster), for the sole, alleged purpose of resisting communism.

If communism *is* a danger to the United States, why are such people as Angela Davis, Herbert Marcuse, Donald Kalish, Robert Singleton, Chancellor Charles Young (et al, ad infinitum) tolerated on the payrolls of tax-supported institutions? How long would such people have stayed on university faculties in the 1939-1945 period if they had extolled the glories of nazism?

If communism is *not* a danger, why has our government plundered us of trillions of dollars in the past 23 years to fight or resist communism?

If communism *is* a danger, why has every President since 1933 made a major policy of building bridges of friendship to communist countries?

Obviously, we have been betrayed and swindled by the liberal leadership which has dominated American life since 1933. Much of that leadership was produced in colleges infiltrated by communists.

With communists in our colleges, we are paying for the subversion of our youth and the ultimate destruction of our society. If we cannot remove the communists, we would be better off to close the colleges.

FOOTNOTES

(1) *Bulletin,* Oct. 1, 1969, Fire and Police Research Association of Los Angeles

(2) "The Total Break With America," Alice Widener, *U.S.A.,* Sept. 12, 1969

(3) *Biographical Dictionary of the Left,* Francis X. Gannon, Western Islands Publishers, 1969

(4) *Chicago Tribune,* Oct. 1, 1969, sect. 2, p. 14, and Oct. 5, 1969, sect. 1, p. 26; *Dallas Times Herald,* Sep. 25, 1969, p. A 7, Oct. 5, 1969, p. A 30, and Oct. 7, 1969, p. A 3; *Dallas Morning News,* Oct. 7, 1969, p. A 2

(5) Published by AFRO-AM Publishing Company, Chicago, 1963

(6) Open letter by U.S. Representative Otto E. Passman, Chairman of the Foreign Operations Subcommittee, July 1, 1969

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